المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

20 June 1991

Dr Ayyub Thukar
World Kashmir Freedom Movement
Kashmir Centre
41 Monsell Road
London N4 2EF

Dear Dr Thukar,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

Thank you for your letter of 7 June to Mr Azzam, who has asked me to write on his behalf in his absence.

Unfortunately, Mr Azzam will not be free to attend the international conference on 13 and 14 July but he has prepared a short message to be read during the proceedings, which I have pleasure in enclosing.

Mr Azzam asked me to thank you for your invitation and to give you his apologies for not being able to attend personally. He wishes the conference every success and, as he writes in his message, hopes that it will jolt the world conscience into taking action on this long-standing tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

Ebrahimsa Mohamed
Executive Secretary

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Mr Chairman, Distinguished Guests,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

Firstly, I wish to say how disappointed I am for not being able to be present personally at this international conference which is being held to address an extremely important issue: the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination, a right which is clearly enshrined in the United Nations' Charter, a right which every member state is committed to uphold.

Kashmir has always been close to my heart. During the last 15 years the Islamic Council has held many international conferences in European and Muslim capitals and the issue of Kashmir has figured prominently in each of them and in the resolutions passed and the conference communiques. The Council has also extended whatever help it could to our oppressed Kashmiri brothers.

Distinguished Guests,

It is a matter of great shame and a blot on the conscience of the world community that, despite the United Nations' Charter and its resolutions in 1948 and 1949, calling for a plebiscite to be held in Kashmir to determine the people's wishes, and despite India's public acceptance of these resolutions, India has continued to occupy the state of Jamu and Kashmir by brute military force for the last 42 years. During its illegal military occupation, the Indian armed forces have been brutally and arrogantly violating the human rights of Kashmir's overwhelming Muslim majority and inflicting on them extremely gruesome atrocities. These have been well documented in the newspapers, the media and numerous books and pamphlets and I need not go into the horrid details here, as most of you are well-aware of them.

Denied their inalienable right to self-determination, frustrated over the world powers' failure to enforce the United Nations' resolutions, and unwilling to be silent victims of unending oppression and atrocities, the valiant people of Kashmir have risen up against the illegal military occupation of their country and are engaged in a jihad to break the shackles of slavery in which India has held them for more than four decades. We salute and honour them for their heroic struggle. May Allah grant them success in their jihad.

I earnestly hope and pray that this conference will jolt the conscience of the world, especially that of the people and government of America.I congratulate its organisers and wish it every success.

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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